WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A database management method comprising:

collecting statistics relating to operation of a database, wherein the database comprises one or more database objects, and wherein the statistics comprise activity-level statistics, wherein the activity-level statistics measure a level of activity of the one or more database objects;

determining characteristics of the database objects;

determining actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects;

automatically determining a schedule for performing the actions on the database objects, wherein the schedule is based on the activity-level statistics;

performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule;

confirming the performing the actions on the database objects; and

monitoring results of the performing the actions on the database objects.

2. The database management method of claim 1,

wherein the statistics comprise object-level statistics.

3. The database management method of claim 1,

wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises determining the characteristics of the database objects using the collected statistics.

4. The database management method of claim 1,

wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises determining the characteristics of the database objects using one or more policies.

5. The database management method of claim 4, further comprising:

a user customizing the one or more policies.

6. The database management method of claim 1,

wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises determining the characteristics of the database objects using one or more definitions.

7. The database management method of claim 6, further comprising:

a user customizing the one or more definitions.

8. The database management method of claim 1, further comprising:

analyzing results of the performing the actions on the database objects.

9. The database management method of claim 8, further comprising:

reconfiguring one or more policies based on the analyzing the results of the performing the scheduled actions on the database objects.

10. The database management method of claim 1,

wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises automatically determining the characteristics of the database objects.

11. The database management method of claim 1,

wherein the determining the actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects comprises automatically determining the actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects.

12. The database management method of claim 1,

wherein the performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule comprises automatically performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule.

13. A carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to implement:

collecting statistics relating to operation of a database, wherein the database comprises one or more database objects, and wherein the statistics comprise activity-level statistics, wherein the activity-level statistics measure a level of activity of the one or more database objects;

determining characteristics of the database objects;

determining actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects;

automatically determining a schedule for performing the actions on the database objects, wherein the schedule is based on the activity-level statistics;

performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule;

confirming the performing the actions on the database objects; and

monitoring results of the performing the actions on the database objects.

14. The carrier medium of claim 13,

wherein the statistics comprise object-level statistics.

15. The carrier medium of claim 13,

wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises determining the characteristics of the database objects using the collected statistics.

16. The carrier medium of claim 13,

wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises determining the characteristics of the database objects using one or more policies.

17. The carrier medium of claim 16, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

customizing the one or more policies.

18. The carrier medium of claim 13,

wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises determining the characteristics of the database objects using one or more definitions.

19. The carrier medium of claim 18, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

customizing the one or more definitions.

20. The carrier medium of claim 13, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

analyzing results of the performing the actions on the database objects.

21. The carrier medium of claim 20, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

reconfiguring one or more policies based on the analyzing the results of the performing the scheduled actions on the database objects.

22. The carrier medium of claim 13,

wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises automatically determining the characteristics of the database objects.

23. The carrier medium of claim 13,

wherein the determining the actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects comprises automatically determining the actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects.

24. The carrier medium of claim 13,

wherein the performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule comprises automatically performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule.

25. A database management system comprising:

a CPU;

a database coupled to the CPU, wherein the database comprises one or more database objects;

a memory coupled to the CPU, wherein the memory stores program instructions which are executable by the CPU to:

collect statistics relating to operation of the database, wherein the statistics comprise activity-level statistics, and wherein the activity-level statistics measure a level of activity of the one or more database objects;

determine characteristics of the database objects;

determine actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects;

automatically determine a schedule for performing the actions on the database objects, wherein the schedule is based on the activity-level statistics;

perform the actions on the database objects based on the schedule;

confirm the performing the actions on the database objects; and

monitor results of the performing the actions on the database objects.

26. The database management system of claim 25,

wherein the statistics comprise object-level statistics.

27. The database management system of claim 25,

wherein in determining the characteristics of the database objects, the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to determine the characteristics of the database objects using the collected statistics.

28. The database management system of claim 25,

wherein in determining the characteristics of the database objects, the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to determine the characteristics of the database objects using one or more policies.

29. The database management system of claim 28, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

customize the one or more policies.

30. The database management system of claim 25,

wherein in determining the characteristics of the database objects, the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to determine the characteristics of the database objects using one or more definitions.

31. The database management system of claim 30, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

customize the one or more definitions.

32. The database management system of claim 25, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

analyze results of the performing the actions on the database objects.

33. The database management system of claim 32, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

reconfigure one or more policies based on analyzing the results of the performing the scheduled actions on the database objects.

34. The database management system of claim 25,

wherein in determining the characteristics of the database objects, the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to automatically determine the characteristics of the database objects.

35. The database management system of claim 25,

wherein in determining the actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects, the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to automatically determine the actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects.

36. The database management system of claim 25,

wherein in performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule, the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to automatically perform the actions on the database objects based on the schedule.